

# TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

---

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>PROJECT TITLE</b>           | <b>BETTER WORK NICARAGUA</b>  |
| <b>REGION/COUNTRY</b>          | THE AMERICAS/Nicaragua  |
| <b>PROJECT DURATION</b>        | January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2016   |
| <b>FUNDING LEVEL</b>           | USD 5,050,000   |
| <b>PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED</b> | Harsh working conditions in garment factories have been at the center of a large and growing debate about globalization and labor standards for years. Low wages, long hours, high temperatures, excessive noise, poor air quality, unsanitary conditions, and abuse (both verbal and physical) are often cited as evidence of non-compliant labor practices which characterize production in developing countries such as Nicaragua. |

## Country Context

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>PROJECT OBJECTIVES</b> | <p>To support decent work in the apparel sector by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• monitoring compliance with national labor law and international labor standards;</li><li>• strengthening government's ability to conduct labor inspections; and</li><li>• increasing the capacity of worker and employer representatives to engage in social dialogue.</li></ul>  |
| <b>PROJECT STRATEGY</b>   | <p>Better Work combines labor monitoring and training to apparel factories around the world. The strategy focuses on market incentives for both producers and buyers, as labor law compliance increases competitiveness and international firms are driven by the need to protect their reputation and image. By monitoring garment factories' compliance with international labor standards, Better Work informs major brands and buyers of labor conditions in the sector. The program also educates workers and managers on labor rights and responsibilities, and provides a space for factory level social dialogue,</p> |

# TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

---

through Performance Improvement Consultative Committees (PICCs), which include managers and workers.

## PROJECT IMPACT/RESULTS

- ✓ Better Work Nicaragua is currently operating in 26 factories, benefiting 41,333 workers and representing 60% of the industry.
- ✓ Better Work provides capacity building for management and grassroots union leaders through specialized certificate programs at two local universities. These 8-week programs cover topics such as occupational safety and health, freedom of association, labor compliance and negotiation skills.

## GRANTEE

International Labor Organization (ILO)

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of Trade and Labor Affairs Division of Technical Assistance and Cooperation (202) 693-4900

**Last update, December 2015**